

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /054 W

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R 061519Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5878

INFO USCINCSO

/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 1571

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 1612

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, BL, CI

SUBJ: NOMINATION OF BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR TO CHILE

1. FOLLOWING SEVERAL DAYS OF UNCERTAINTY WITHIN THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT OVER THE SELECTION OF A BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR TO CHILE, GOB HAS DECIDED TO NOMINATE GUILLERMO GUTIERREZ VEA MURGUIA. CHILEAN AGREEMENT IS EXPECTED SHORTLY, AND GUTIERREZ REPORTEDLY WILL TAKE UP HIS NEW POST WITHIN A MONTH.

2. GUTIERREZ, IN HIS MID-SIXTIES AT PRESENT, HAS BEEN A PROMINENT FIGURE IN BOLIVIAN NATIONAL LIFE FOR MANY YEARS. AFTER EARNING A BATTLEFIELD PROMOTION TO LIEUTENANT DURING THE CHACO WAR, GUTIERREZ BECAME CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ARAMAYO MINING INTERESTS IN BOLIVIA. HE WAS DIRECTOR AND MANAGER OF ARAMAYO'S NEWSPAPER "LA RAZON" FROM 1939 TO 1943, SUBSEQUENTLY OCCUPYING THE POST OF PRESIDENT OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION OF BOLIVIA FROM 1944-46. HE HELD CABINET POSTS DURING THE PRESIDENCIES OF ENRIQUE HERTZOG (1947-49) AND MAMERTO URRIOLAGOITIA (1949-51), AND WAS A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY IN 1951. IN ADDITION, GUTIERREZ REPRESENTED BOLIVIA AS AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS AND AMBASSADOR TO CUBA IN THE PRE-1952 PERIOD.

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3. FOLLOWING THE MNR REVOLUTION OF 1952, GUTIERREZ WENT

INTO EXILE FOR APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN YEARS. DURING THESE YEARS, GUTIERREZ WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN PRESS SOCIETY, RISING TO THE POSITION OF VICE-PRESIDENT AND MANAGER OF THE IPS TECHNICAL CENTER. FOR APPROXIMATELY 18 MONTHS DURING THIS TIME, HE REPRESENTED THE IPS IN CHILE AS AN ADVISOR TO "EL MERCURIO"; REPORTEDLY, GUTIERREZ DEVELOPED CLOSE AND LASTING TIES WITH UPPER CLASS CHILEAN SOCIETY AND CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL CIRCLES IN CHILE WHILE RESIDENT IN SANTIAGO. FOLLOWING THE FALL OF THE MNR FROM POWER IN 1964, GUTIERREZ RETURNED TO BOLIVIA, WHERE HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE EVER SINCE IN PRIVATE MINING AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. UNDER THE BANZER GOVERNMENT, HE BRIEFLY OCCUPIED THE POST OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT INSTITUTE. MORE IMPORTANT, HE IS REGARDED AS ONE OF THE LEADING SPOKESMEN OF THE MEDIUM MINING INTERESTS WHICH HAVE ACHIEVED A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF POLITICAL INFLUENCE UNDER THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT. HE IS ONE OF THE LEADING STOCKHOLDERS IN THE ESTALSA MINING FIRM, WHICH PURCHASED THE FORMER GRACE & CO. MINING PROPERTIES IN 1973; IN ADDITION, HE IS A DIRECTOR OF THE BANCO INDUSTRIAL AND PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OF INCATUR, S.A., A TRAVEL AGENCY.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, AMBASSADORS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LAPAZ01612  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750079-0706  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <04 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NOMINATION OF BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR TO CHILE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINR, PDIP, BL, CI, (GUTIERREZ VEA MURGUIA, GUILLERMO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006